

Improve Public Access to Water Quality Data



Project Title	Improve Public Access to Water Quality Data
Project Summary	Encourage public involvement and better regulatory decisions by entering water quality data that currently exist only in the EPA's internal files into a publicly accessible database.
Country	United States

Project Description

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permits often require collection of water quality data for the waterbodies to which the permitted facilities discharge pollutants. The EPA uses these data to decide what conditions need to be included in these permits. General information about the NPDES permitting program can be found here:
<https://www.epa.gov/npdes>

Unfortunately, most of these data are not currently stored in a proper database, even though the EPA maintains such a database called STORET, which is accessed publicly through the Water Quality eXchange or (WQX). More information is available here:
<https://www.epa.gov/waterdata/water-quality-data-wqx>

You can change that! Making these data publicly available will improve the public's understanding of the quality of their waters and help federal, State and local government regulators make better decisions about how to protect water quality.

Required Skills or Interests

Skill(s)

Data analysis

Data visualization

GIS expertise

Additional Information

The ideal candidate will be a responsible, self-starting, detail-oriented individual with knowledge of computer databases. Knowledge of chemistry, ecology, and geographic information systems (GIS) are desirable but not necessary.

Language Requirements

None